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Call to protect iconic outback watercourse

South Australia's Premier, Mike Rann, has called on the Queensland Government to put a halt to the taking of more water from the Cooper Creek.



Credit: ScienceImage/Greg Rinder

The Queensland Government is looking to reactivate some dormant water licences, originally allocated for cotton industry development in the Cooper Creek, which could take 10 billion litres from the waterway.

Nine eminent scientists also recently wrote to the Queensland Government urging it not to extract further water.

In October last year, the South Australian Government made a submission to the Queensland Government warning that these dormant licences represented 'a significant risk' to the achievement of environmental objectives.

The Cooper Creek flows through western Queensland to the Coongie Lakes and is one of Lake Eyre's key tributaries.

The Cooper Creek and two other Channel Country Rivers – the Diamantina and the Georgina – together provide 90 per cent of all the lake's water. Although these rivers only flood occasionally, the lakes and receiving waters are key breeding sites for waterbirds, including pelicans.

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